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# Covington-Reynolds Family Papers (MSS 677)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 677 COVINGTON-Reynolds Family Papers**

1 box. 8 folders. 179 items. 1928-1934. Originals.

SC2019.95.4

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Edward Daniel Covington was born on 2 December 1908 the son of Albert E. and Bessie C. Covington. He completed his high school work at Ogden College in Bowling Green. He then matriculated at Western Kentucky State Teachers College (WKU) and received a bachelor's degree in 1931. After graduation, Covington accepted a position teaching industrial arts at St. Petersburg High School in Florida. Before Covington left Western, he had met and dated Evelyn Clark Reynolds. He received a master's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1937. Evelyn Reynolds was born on 16 August 1910, the daughter of Alcenia (Clark) Reynolds and William Russell Reynolds, Jr. She attended Cave City High School and was very active socially, attending many card parties, extracurricular school and church events, and movies at the local theater, as well as going on frequent automobile outings with friends and family. After high school, she attended Ward-Belmont College (Nashville) from 1928 to 1930, when she transferred to WKU; she received her bachelor's degree in 1933.

Edward and Evelyn married on 2 September 1934 at East Baptist Church in Louisville. For the next several decades, Edward enjoyed a long career in education: St. Petersburg High School, 1931-1937; Shepherdstown, West Virginia, 1937-1938; Marietta, Georgia, 1938-1947. During the 1947-1948 academic year, he was principal at Marietta High School. From 1947 to 1954 he was an independent grocer. Afterwards he worked in the training department and as a supervisor of drafting at Lockheed Aircraft, the position he retired from in 1966. The Covingtons had two children Dale and Katherine and were active members of Marietta's First Baptist Church. Edward died on 6 February 2007 and Evelyn on 19 January 1992; they are interred in Bowling Green, Kentucky's Fairview Cemetery.

**COLLECTION NOTE**

Folder 2 houses a diary kept by Evelyn Reynolds from 1 January to 18 September 1928, which includes the last part of her senior year at Cave City High School. She writes daily, but skipped 16 February to 17 April. She mentions school chums and school activities such as chapel, plays, basketball games, and senior recognition ceremonies. She also includes

information about her church activities, card playing parties, motoring trips she took to Louisville and Nashville as well as quick jaunts to Bowling Green and to Mammoth Cave, and notes numerous films that she saw at the theater in Cave City. She also mentions fires, deaths, illnesses, and social activities of her family and close associates. She often mentions receiving and writing letters and the books she is reading.

Folders 3-6 contain courtship letters written by Edward Covington, St. Petersburg, Florida, to Evelyn Reynolds, Cave City, Kentucky. They discuss the hardship of the Great Depression on teachers in St. Petersburg and the uncertainty of receiving paychecks in 1933 and 1934. Covington also discusses a method worked out by the School Board to raise funds within the community to supplement tuition paid by the students. Covington mentions his activities with the Baptist Young Peoples Union, Sunday School and other activities at First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg. He occasionally includes a test or exercise for Evelyn from the shop classes or geometry class that he taught. It is very clear that Covington is wooing Evelyn, and the letters often describe his longing for her.

Folder 7 includes an autograph album kept by Evelyn Reynolds during her senior year of high school. It includes the typical sentimental and sarcastic remarks and poetry often found in similar books. She does include some remarks about the success of the Cave City High School basketball team that year and lists seniors for 1928 along with their town of residence.

Folder 8 includes a ledger kept by William R. Reynolds, Jr., Evelyn's father, in which he keeps account of income and expenses related to some rental properties. On pages 118-128, he intermittently records the daily weather from 1949 to 1951.

### ***SHELF LIST***

| <b>BOX 1</b> | <b>Covington-Reynolds Family Papers</b>          | <b>1928-1934</b> | <b>179 items</b> |
|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1     | Inventory  |                  | 1 item           |
| Folder 2     | Diary of Evelyn Reynolds                         | 1928             | 1 item           |
| Folder 3     | Letters from Edward Covington to Evelyn Reynolds | 1932             | 29 items         |
| Folder 4     | Letters from Edward Covington to Evelyn Reynolds | 1933             | 75 items         |
| Folder 5     | Letters from Edward Covington to Evelyn Reynolds | 1934             | 30 items         |
| Folder 6     | Letters from Edward Covington to Evelyn Reynolds | 1934             | 31 items         |
| Folder 7     | Autograph album kept by Evelyn Reynolds          | 1926-1928        | 1 item           |

|          |  |           |          |
|----------|--|-----------|----------|
| Folder 8 | Ledger kept by William R. Reynolds, Jr.<br>and loose clippings from ledger | 1927-1962 | 11 items |
|----------|--|-----------|----------|

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

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Chiefly courtship letters written by Edward Daniel Covington while teaching high school industrial arts classes at St. Petersburg High School in Florida to his girlfriend and future wife, Evelyn Reynolds, Cave City, Kentucky. The 1933 letters mention the financial effects of the Great Depression and the difficulty of paying teachers.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Autograph albums, 1927-1929 B1,F7  
Baptist Young People's Union – Mentioned B1,F2-6  
Cave City  
Cave City High School – Basketball – Comments about B1,F2,7  
Cave City High School – Relating to B1,F2,7  
Caves – Cave City – Mentioned B1,F2-5  
Century of Progress World's Fair – Chicago, 1932 B1,F3-4  
Chicago, Illinois – Travel and description, 1933 B1,F4  
Clark family – Obituaries B1,F8  
Courtship B1,F3-6  
Covington, Edward Daniel, 1908-2007 B1,F3-6  
Elections and election campaigns – Barren County, 1950s B1,F8  
Farris family – Obituaries B1,F8  
First Baptist Church – St. Petersburg, Florida – Relating to B1,F4-6  
Great Depression – Comments about B1,F4-6  
Kentucky National Guard – Fort Knox – Training, 1932 B1,F3  
Mammoth Cave – Mentioned  
Reynolds, Alcenia (Clark), 1884-1975 – Mentioned B1,F2  
Reynolds, Evelyn Clark, 1910-1992 – Letters to B1,3-6  
Reynolds family – Obituaries B1,F8  
Reynolds, William Russell, Jr., 1878-1955 – Mentioned B1,F2  
Reynolds, William Russell, Jr., 1878-1955 – Relating to B1,F8  
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, 1882-1945 – Mentioned, 1933 B1,F4  
Students, 1927-1928 B1,F2  
Teachers and teaching – St. Petersburg, Florida B1,F3-6  
Weather – Cave City, 1949-1951 B1,F8

World's Fairs – Chicago, 1932 – Relating to B1,F3-4

***SEE or SEE ALSO***

Covington, Evelyn Clark (Reynolds), 1910-1992

See also:

Reynolds, Evelyn Clark, 1910-1992

Jeffrey 10/09/2019